

BAY AREA SEWAGE SERVICES AGENCY

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Berkeley, CA 94720

CABAG

Sewage disposal

Water treatment

SF Bay area

Letter re AB 3041 to transfer  
authority for wastewater management  
planning & implementation to ABAG

Assembly Bill 3041 has been introduced in the State Legislature to effect a transposition of authority for wastewater management planning and implementation from the Bay Area Sewage Services Agency to the Association of Bay Area Governments. The Association of Bay Area Governments Executive Committee will consider adoption of a position of support for the measure on March 18, and the Board of Trustees of BASSA offers the following information for your consideration.

BASSA was created by the State Legislature in 1972 and was charged with responsibility for water pollution control facilities planning and implementation on a regionwide basis for the San Francisco Bay Area. That responsibility is directly related to provisions of Section 201 of Public Law 92-500, the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972, which is intended to achieve the national policy that waste treatment management be on an areawide basis and that federal financing be provided for construction of needed facilities owned and operated by municipal agencies.

The authority of the Agency to plan and implement a wastewater facilities plan on a regional level recognizes the effect each individual discharge may have on the overall quality of water in the San Francisco Bay. That authority, moreover, is necessary to assure that all local and subregional facilities plans be implemented in a coordinated manner to provide maximum beneficial effect on Bay waters. The recent receipt by the Association of Bay Area Governments of federal monies for wastewater-air-solid waste planning under Section 208 of Public Law 92-500 is not duplicative of BASSA's role in water quality management, but, rather, is another facet of national policy requiring development of waste treatment management processes to assure adequate control of sources of pollutants in conformance with 201 facilities plans. The two programs are not duplicative or in conflict, rather they are complimentary, and, we feel, will be best accomplished by BASSA and ABAG operating independently and cooperatively.

Under AB 3041, a voluntary-membership organization established by joint powers agreement of various cities and counties as a forum for cooperative planning in neighboring jurisdictions, would automatically gain Legislative sanction as a third level of government. The provision in the bill for a reduction in apportionment limitation would have little impact on local agency budgets, and, we feel, is proposed to gain support of local officials for a governmental concept which has been defeated in the Legislature time and time again. It is important to note that BASSA currently apportions only 60% of the amount allowed under law to the region, and the proposed reduction in apportionment limitation from 1/2¢ to 1/4¢ per \$100 assessed valuation would create a maximum savings of only 10% to the counties within the Bay Area.

The Board of Trustees urges your careful consideration of the ramifications of Assembly Bill 3041.

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